

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **August 19, 2004**, the examiner reviewed claims 1-25 of the application. Claims 1-5, 13-14, 23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura (USPN 6,633,873, hereinafter “Nakamura”). Claims 6-12, 14, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Harris (USPub 2002/0059204, hereinafter “Harris”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 were rejected as being anticipated by Nakamura. Applicant respectfully points out that Nakamura teaches gathering response data from a remote device that satisfies predetermined conditions **based on a specific database** (see Nakamura, col. 2, lines 4-7 and col. 4, lines 44-45).

In contrast, the present invention filters search requests obtained from a remote supplier by **applying organization procurement controls** to filter the search results generated by the remote supplier (see page 6, lines 15-19 and page 12, lines 1-3 of the instant application—The problem is described at page 2, lines 1-6). This is beneficial because it maintains organizational procurement control (for example, specifying price or quantity limits) over search results generated by a remote supplier. There is nothing within Nakamura, either explicit or implicit, which suggests filtering search results from a remote supplier by applying organization procurement controls to search results generated by a remote supplier.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 to clarify that the present invention filters search requests by applying organization procurement controls to search results generated by a remote supplier. These amendments find support on page 6, lines 15-19 and on page 12, lines 1-3 of the instant application.

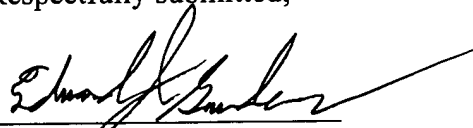
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-13, which depend upon claim 1, claims 16-21, which depend upon claim 15, and claims 24-25, which depend upon claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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